



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 24, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

During legislative action on the House Democratic leadership's health care legislation (H.R. 3200) last November, a majority of members of the House of Representatives voted in favor of a bipartisan amendment authored by Reps. Bart Stupak (D-MI) that would prohibit federal funding of abortion. The Stupak amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 240-194 and is part of the House-passed health care bill.

As you know, the Stupak amendment is not included in the Senate version of the health care bill, nor in the new proposal you put forth earlier this week and designated as the starting point for the discussion that will take place at Blair House on February 25. But public opinion surveys (including two recent surveys conducted by [CNN](#) and [Quinnipiac University](#)) consistently indicate that the Stupak amendment reflects the will of the American people.

During the House floor debate on H.R. 3200, I [individually questioned](#) each of the Democratic committee chairmen with jurisdiction on health care issues to seek their assurances that the will of the House, as reflected by the support of a bipartisan majority for the Stupak amendment, would be preserved when a final health care bill is crafted by the Democratic majority in Washington. None committed to working to ensure that the House position is preserved in a final health care bill. These same majority committee chairmen will be representing the House in the February 25 summit.

On February 8, House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) and I wrote a [letter](#) to your chief of staff, Mr. Emanuel, posing a number of questions about the proposed February 25 summit. Among the questions we asked was whether congressional Democrats who are opposed to the House or Senate versions of the health care bill would be invited to participate in the summit. As of this writing, Mr. Emanuel has not responded to our letter, and the Democratic leadership in the House has not indicated any plans to include such members in the delegations they are sending to Blair House.

I write today to respectfully ask that you invite Rep. Stupak to participate in the February 25 health care summit so that the will of the American people – and that of a bipartisan majority in the House – on the critical issue of life will be appropriately represented during the discussion.

Regrettably, millions of Americans are already deeply skeptical about the February 25 summit. They have noted with disappointment the decision by the White House to use the existing legislation as the starting point for the discussion – despite the fact that the current bills are opposed by a majority of the American people – rather than starting the discussion with a clean sheet of paper. They have noted with consternation the White House decision to exclude governors and state legislators representing states that will bear the heaviest burdens if the current legislation is enacted. Including Representative Stupak in the February 25 discussion, by contrast, would send a signal that the White House respects the views of a majority of Americans and a bipartisan majority of the House on the critical issue of life.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John A. Boehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John Boehner  
Republican Leader